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PRESS RELEASE

MACEDONIAN EXHIBIT AT AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS EXPO IN STUTTGART

From June 22 – 25, 2010, representatives of the Macedonian automotive components industry participated in the European Automotive Components (EAC) Expo in Stuttgart, Germany. The primary exhibitor at the Macedonia Automotive Pavilion was the Automotive Cluster of Macedonia, representing 25 local companies. In addition, four individual automotive component producers - TCG Learnica, RUEN IT, TE-TE Plast and EIN SOF –participated, presenting their own products and services to potential buyers.

"Participation at the EAC Fair last year proved to be very beneficial for the exhibiting companies and the Automotive Cluster of Macedonia," said Vladimir Tevdov, Director of Automotive Cluster of Macedonia. "Continuity in participation at these fairs is important to successfully promote the Macedonian automotive component industry in global markets. This also builds the capacities of company members of the Automotive Cluster of Macedonia, and contributes to the overall growth of this industry."

The EAC is an international exhibition of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) and different levels of suppliers, with a strong emphasis on presenting new suppliers from different parts of the world. The Expo provides an opportunity for suppliers who are not well known to the European automotive industry to present their production capacities. With support from the USAID Competitiveness Project, this is the second time there has been a Macedonia Automotive Pavilion at the EAC. Last year's participants gained new clients and orders thanks to their exposure at the Expo. Participation helps Macedonian companies gain access to European automotive supply chains.

The Competitiveness Project works closely with Macedonian companies in the targeted - apparel, light manufacturing, and information and communication technology (ICT) sectors to help them identify new buyers and meet their specific demands. The Project supports companies' participation in trade fairs and B2B events, improves productivity, assists in the adoption of international standards, and facilitates access to new finance.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.